

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/955,090

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

SAKAKIBARA ET AL.

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an application for patent filed September 19, 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/19/01 and 4/4/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


Cheukfan Lee

Art Unit: 2622

1. All pending claims 1-20 are allowed. Claims 1, 17 and 20 are independent.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 17 and 20 each require a four-line CCD sensor, which includes a first CCD line sensor constructed by a three-line CCD sensor having color filters disposed thereon, and a second CCD line sensor constructed by a one-line CCD sensor having no color filter disposed thereon, and adjusting of an amplitude of at least one signal among signals outputted from the first CCD line sensor at a time of reading a color document and an amplitude of a signal outputted from the second CCD line sensor at a time of reading a monochromatic document, to be substantially equal to one another. This feature in combination with the selection feature which selects from the first CCD line sensor or the second CCD line sensor in case a color document or in case a monochromatic document is read, respectively, is not taught by the prior art of record.

Claims 1-16, 18, and 19 depending on claim 1 or claim 17 are allowable for the reasons given for claim 1 and claim 17.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2622

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hara (U.S. Patent No. 6,804,033) discloses a document scanner having a three-line CCD sensor, for determining whether a document is a color document or a black and white document, and processing the document image data accordingly.

Yoo (U.S. Patent No. 5,894,356) discloses a color separation apparatus having RGB color filters and a three-line CCD sensor for scanning a document in a color mode or in a black/white mode.

Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,667) discloses a color copier having the function of automatically discriminating whether each original is a black and white original or a color original.

Hirota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,802) discloses an image reproducing apparatus for discriminating whether an original is a color original or a monochromatic original and for forming either of a color image or a monochromatic image.

Takaragi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,721,628) discloses a color image processing apparatus having a plurality of line sensors and judging whether an original document is a monochromatic original document or a color original document.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

Art Unit: 2622

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
June 1, 2005


Cheukfan Lee